

**Town of New Glarus  
Parks Commission Minutes  
Thursday November 15, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.**

ATTENDING: Chris Narveson, Dana Emmerton, Andy Elkins, Chris Reis and Susan McCallum, Deputy Clerk

ABSENT: Pete Raskovic

ALSO ATTENDING: Keith Seward

CALL TO ORDER: C. Narveson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

1. Proof of Posting: S. McCallum, Deputy Clerk confirmed proper posting.
2. Approve Minutes of October 20, 2012: Minutes were reviewed. K. Seward moved to approve with grammar correction on page 3, A. Elkins 2<sup>nd</sup>, Motion carried.
3. Public Comments: None
4. Informational, Hoesly Pond Timeline: postponed until next meeting as information not available. A. Elkins will locate and bring to next meeting.
5. Discuss sinking funds: K. Seward handed out the advisory question presented at the town meeting on October 30. He explained the motions made and the final adopted motion designating the Park/Town Hall sinking fund to be used for a Public Library with town hall space including that the lease is a rental discount. The board has included the amounts recommended from this commission and included them in the 2013 budget for both sinking funds. There has been discussion at town board level regarding a condominium option (around \$120,000) brought forward by Jim Hoesly. There is also a possibility of a grant to move out of the flood plain. D. Emmerton asked how a person would go about researching this. K. Seward stated you would hire a grant writer, but there doesn't seem to be interest in this from the Library Board perspective. D. Emmerton stated that she felt they may be interested because this additional monies if substantial. C. Narveson stated this would offset the cost of project. Then the discussion is whose money this would be considered. K. Seward wondered whether the electorate would support these expenditures. D. Emmerton wondered when the \$42,000 would be distributed, K. Seward said at occupancy, but the Library Board would be paying as project commences. They have a commitment from the village for \$1.05 Million, collected about \$576,000 in contributions and pledges. Fund raising is ongoing for \$1.25 Million, if they don't achieve this they will need to reevaluate the size of the space. Town board is supportive of concept and the details are being worked out. D. Emmerton feels it would be nice to have input for the green space out back. Seward stated this group would be looked at for these suggestions based upon projected plans for 2 retention ponds on lower area and rain garden on upper area, and there is a wooded area that wraps the cemetery. He suggested bringing this discussion to the joint parks discussion with village. A. Elkins asked what the time line is for this body to input these types of ideas. Seward stated there isn't any time frame yet as they are trying to resolve the rental contract in the next few meetings. The joint committee would present a proposal outlining the lease agreement and this would be submitted to three boards for approval, at which point an architect would design the space. The Library Board would like the following time frame, started by spring of

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2013 and completed by spring of 2014. A. Elkins wondered whether this group would be able to designate any of these funds, in the case the location changes to a location that wouldn't have room for green space, could it go back to this commission for other park projects. Where we would hold the \$24,000 or another amount that would be committed to the outdoors of this project once a concept resolved. K. Seward felt this would be a good idea to outline how the monies would be spent as concepts of green space are developed. K. Seward stated conversations with Jody Hoesly, Town's representative on Library Board includes operating costs, and the coop boundary agreement discussions include this cost as well. C. Reis wanted to know when the decision will be made on site location. K. Seward said he couldn't answer this point; the Library Board is committed to outside of downtown location. C. Narveson stated he supports taking monies from both funds so that an entire fund is not depleted. A. Elkins felt that he would not be opposed to both funds being depleted if the funds per year would be continued for projects such as the skate park. K. Seward stated what he has seen is that any expansion in the new building would be up not down into the basement area designated for Town Hall. D. Emmerton said we can revisit our decisions on the designation of monies once plans are finalized, she liked A. Elkin's idea and if we could at least feel that we would have an active voice in the expenditure of our funds. K. Seward stated that this commission would be asked for recommendations.

6. Discuss Commission Recruitment/membership: We have lost two members, and it seems like we are always struggling to keep 7 members. K. Seward stated that the Town Clerk posed whether by ordinance we could reduce to 5 members. A. Elkins wondered if there is a requirement for number of meetings per year. K. Seward stated there isn't this requirement and suggested this committee review their meeting schedule. C. Narveson wonders if anyone has any leads, A. Elkins wondered to whom we forward this information. K. Seward said that last time members brain stormed names and worked through them, his experience was that people wanted to know what they would need to do when they were contacted. He stated this is the group to which the names would be forwarded. D. Emmerton said she had to submit a resume of background information. A. Elkins would like to work on creation of list at next meeting; C. Narveson suggested keeping membership an ongoing agenda item. Member not present P. Raskovic needs to be contacted for his availability. K. Seward said that he understood his focus is to preserve open space. Committee members agreed this included buying property.

7. Discuss Direction of Parks Commission: Deputy Clerk explained material handed out including original parks plan from 2006 objectives/goals and the updated actions developed in 2011. Commission reviewed and questioned some of the action plans in 2011 update. They felt the "Town support of..." category has been met with the joint parks meetings, whether annual monies contributed would allow for input and that the reduction in pool fees has been considered for the town users as this has prevented residents from purchasing memberships. The 2013 action plan "Trails Plan" category was discussed but the town does not have any property for trails, C. Narveson felt this

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was in regards to people allowing easements for trails. A. Elkins spoke about the river walk the village is trying to do along the Sugar River and he would support furthering that into the township. C. Narveson stated that the thought was to connect rural subdivisions to this trail and wonders how the easements would work through pasture lands. A bike lane was developed but it didn't turn out as anticipated with a 2 foot path. K. Seward wondered about costs projected at \$50,000 per mile and that the village is focused on "back town" as location for a Riverwalk. C. Narveson stated that the town talked with the county about putting a bike lane on Hwy O, but the price of construction is high and Durst Valley road as another location and you may need incentives to land owners. K. Seward suggested that this commission should focus on what items from new plan you would want to go forward, continue with barn lectures or others. D. Emmerton suggested members review and we put this discussion on next agenda. Deputy Clerk will make CDs of new plan for members to pick up and commission will begin discussion at next meeting. D. Emmerton stated that the Cub Scouts would like to do the blue bird house project, she would like to know how many, where the town buys the supplies and she would like them to do the project over the winter months. Deputy Clerk stated there are monies in 2012 budget for this project. The decision was for ten houses and the supplies costs to be reimbursed.

8. Discuss and consider purchase of trees and educational workshop: D. Emmerton presented as a choice a picture sample of sycamores which grow in our zone, she especially likes the bark colorations and that they have small ball type seeds. In order to have a wider variety of tree types she also likes Sugar Maple, Butternut and Junipers because of their berries. A. Elkins stated they are all on the county list but they do not offer evergreens except for Red Cedar. Decision tonight needs to include total number and by species, that will fit within budget of \$500. A. Elkins distributed the information on trees from Schumacher's Nursery in Minnesota; bare root evergreens costs for Norway Spruce are \$.87ea. if under 250 qty, over \$.67ea. which would be \$167.50. From Green County deciduous in quantities of 10 per species are \$2, transplant bare root- 2' (they only do native species). The list of trees was reviewed and the consensus was for deciduous from the county only as they only offer red cedar for pine trees. A. Elkins answered the process to distribute plans for K. Seward. Sales would be facilitated by the scouts, offset cost of trees with small handling fee earned and the location would be the town hall or another location. Property owner would pick-up and be responsible for planting. On a first come first serve basis, newspaper ad and using a workshop or someone there to talk with people about planting; for distribution on the weekend of delivery the second or third weekend of April that includes information on natural fences/wind blocks and Digger's Hotline. Evergreens would be more expensive and there are minimums of 10 each species of deciduous, suggestion for 6-8 varieties of trees total. A. Elkins liked Hazelnut (shrub), Norway Pine and Juniper, C. Narveson agreed. D. Emmerton suggested Christmas tree types as people might like these for future cutting. The suggested consensus is Norway Spruce, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Butternut- 40,

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Sugar Maple- 40, Sycamore- 20, and Hazelnut- 20. D. Emmerton suggested selecting a pine that can withstand straight line wind storms and/or drought. A. Elkins felt that we would not know the parameters of planting locations. C. Narveson motioned to spend up to \$500 for 4 deciduous types and 3 evergreen types to be left to the discretion of D. Emmerton and A. Elkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Reis. Motion carried.

To continue the discussion on educational workshops in regards to the restoration of Blue Bird Ridge, C. Reis moved to approve purchase of wood and hardware for blue bird houses up to \$150, 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Elkins. Motion carried.

9. Schedule next meeting and set agenda: December 13, 7pm. Any more items, none. Discuss membership size and meeting dates. Deputy Clerk and Clerk will research acceptable size.

10. Adjourn: A. Elkins moved to adjourn at 9:07pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Reis. Motion carried.